

Message Text

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60

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /054 W

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R 081650Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO COMFAIRMED NAPLES

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9845

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

NSO NAPLES

AMCONSUL NAPLES

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF 60

USS NIMITZ

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14654

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, IT

SUBJECT: VISITS TO USS NIMITZ

REF: COMSIXTHFLT 021329Z SEP 76

1. DUE TO A VARIETY OF SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS, HIGH-LEVEL ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN VISIT OF USS NIMITZ TO NAPLES SEPT 14 THROUGH 27 WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE. AMBASSADOR, HOWEVER, HOPES IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO RESCHEDULE SUCH PARTICIPATION IN FIRST SUBSEQUENT NAPLES VISIT BY NIMITZ, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND MAY BE IN FIRST HALF NOVEMBER.

2. EMBASSY SUGGESTS FOLLOWING CONCERNING HANDLING OF SEPT 14/27 VISIT:

A) WHILE COMMUNIST MAYOR OF NAPLES SHOULD BE
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GIVEN NORMAL COURTESIES IN VISITING NIMITZ, HE SHOULD

NOT BE SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. RATHER HIS VISIT SHOULD BE MELDED WITH THAT OF LARGER GROUP ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.

B) IN LOW-KEY PROCESS OF ACCUSTOMING ITALIANS TO PRESENCE OF NIMITZ (AND OTHER NPW'S) IN ITALIAN WATERS, IT CONTINUES BE PRUDENT TO REDUCE PRESS ATTENTION TO MIXIMUN FEASIBLE EXTENT. TO THAT END, BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT SINGLE OUT INDIVIDUAL JOURNALISTS OR GROUPS OF MEDIA CORRESPONDENTS WITH INVITATIONS, BUT SIMPLY TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO SUCH PRESS REQUESTS AS MAY BE RECEIVED FOR VISITS.

C) BELIEVE ALL VISITING USN HANDS SHOULD BE BRIEFED, PRIOR ARRIVAL NAPLES, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

"1) DURING PART OF YOUR STAY IN NAPLES, THAT IS BETWEEN SEPT 14 THROUGH 19, THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ITALY IS SPONSORING A MAJOR "HAPPENING" WHICH WILL FEATURE MUSIC, DANCE, THEATER (LIVE AND FILM), AND SPEECHES AT A SITE ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE CITY. CALLED THE "NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF UNITY," THE AFFAIR WILL HAVE AN ATMOSPHERE REMINISCENT OF AN AMERICAN FAIR OR CARNIVAL.

"2) YOU SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS NOT, RPT NOT, A CARNIVAL BUT A POLITICAL EVENT CAREFULLY DESIGNED TO FURTHER THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY. AS SUCH IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR AMERICANS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY WAY. MOREOVER, IN SIMILAR RECENT "FESTIVALS" ELSEWHERE IN ITALY, THERE HAS BEEN SOME VIOLENCE, INCLUDING MURDER.

"3) FOR THESE REASONS, ALL PERSONNEL ARE INSTRUCTED TO AVOID THE FESTIVAL, NOT TO GO TO THE SITE IT-SELF, AND TO MOVE AWAY FROM ANY OFFSHOOTS OF THE FESTIVAL WHICH MIGHT OCCUR ELSEWHERE IN NAPLES. USE MAXIMUM DISCRETION, STAY AWAY FROM GROUPS OF YOUTHS IN THE STREETS, AND REFUSE TO ENGAGE IN ANY POLITICALLY-RELATED DISCUSSIONS WITH ITALIAN
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CITIZENS.

"4) THE FESTIVAL IS CALLED IN ITALIAN THE "FESTIVAL NAZIONALE DE L'UNITA" AND IS BEING HELD AT THE FAIR- GROUND CALL "MOSTRA D'OLTREMARE" EAST OF THAT PORTION OF TOWN CALLED POSSILLIPO. BECAUSE THAT SITE IS NOT DISTANT FROM THE USN NAPLES SUPPORT ACTIVITY (INCLUDING THE PX AND COMMISSARY), THE

NEED FOR PRUDENCE WHEN IN THE AREA IS EVIDENT."

3. CONCERNING PARA. 2. C) ABOVE, COMFAIRMED MAY
WISH TO TREAT THE AREA OF THE FESTIVAL AS "OFF
LIMITS" BUT SO AS TO ATTRACT NO PRESS ATTENTION
TO THE FACT.BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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